GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:236
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2013
SEAT AVAILABILITY IN AI FLIGHTS
Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao;Sharma Shri Jagdish

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India (AI) operated a number of flights with less than its seating capacity during the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the losses suffered by the national carrier as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to address the issue?

Answer

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a), (b), (c) and (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b) ,(c), AND (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.236 TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2013 REGARDING SEAT AVAILABILITY IN AI FLIGHTS

(a) and (b) : The average passenger load factor (PLF) of Air India was 68.5 percent during 2011-12 and 71.8 percent during the period April, 2012 to January, 2013. Occupancy on a flight is determined by the market demand, level of competition, time schedule and seasonality. Full occupancy round the year in a flight is only a technical possibility, which is seldom achieved by any airline in the world.

(c) : Low PLF affects the revenue earning of the airline, but it is not possible to attribute any quantum to this factor.

(d) : Air India monitors the market development and carries out market studies with an objective to introduce new routes, increase number of services on existing routes, make modifications to existing schedules, adjusts seats offered on a route (by changing the aircraft) so as to match seats offered with the demand for seats . Air India has also introduced several marketing schemes to attract customers. The pricing of tickets is also reviewed on a continual basis.